

R. W. THOMAS, Editor.

TERMS: \$2.00 IN ADVANCE.

CLARKSVILLE, : : NOV. 11, 1873.

## LAW AND ITS VIOLATORS.

Our limited experience of the machinery employed by the courts, for the vindication of justice and the enforcement of the laws, has impressed us with the belief that much reform is needed to make the means adequate to the ends. That infractions of law should be promptly and certainly punished, is a proposition too clear to admit of a doubt. It is equally true that, in many cases, the offenses are so trivial, and the machinery so cumbersome and unwieldy, that justice to the offender cannot be reached without injustice to the government, whether State or federal, or to the taxpayers generally. Take, for instance, the numerous cases of infractions of the revenue laws—those especially, which relate to illicit trade in whisky and tobacco. A man suspected of dealing in either, contrary to law, knowing the consequences of detection, hides himself and factory in deep, wooded glens and mountain gorges, and resorts to every device to cover his tracks. The government detectives pursue him, for months, before they can enter his hiding place, and then find that the bird has flown. His implements are seized and sold, perhaps one-fourth of the cost of the chase, whilst those who have bought his whisky or tobacco, and to whom the word—detective—is an abomination, and who have an idea that, to cheat the government, is a venial offense, if not a virtue, will not hesitate to mislead the officer and stoop to immoral acts to shield the culprit from the penalty of the law.

But, suppose the offender is caught, tried and convicted, the fine imposed is rarely collected, and his imprisonment adds to the cost of the prosecution without reimbursing a dollar of the costs to the taxpayers, who have the bill to foot. The detective, and other subordinate officials of the federal government, who are paid by the job, actuated by mercenary motives, are eager to multiply arrests, with little regard to justice, and every case sent up to the courts brings with it a crowd of witnesses, often of character, intellectual or moral, which make the testimony of more than doubtful value to the elucidation of the case. Thus the prosecution drags on with constantly accumulating costs, and the case is often thrown out of court as of too little importance to be further investigated. But the subordinate officers have gained their object, whilst in the localities of such arrests and trials before commissioners, much has been done to demoralize the people, and every equivalent to the government, or to the cause of justice. Such is the number of these cases that the evils growing out of them, are not only wide spread, but call loudly for redress, because the consequences are, too often, hostility to the government, false swearing and bribery—crimes against private and public virtue, for the suppression of which, and the promotion of virtue, good government always directs its best efforts. The defect, is not so much in the machinery employed as in the want of honesty in its engineers. The blood-hounds of the law—as they were long ago designated—not unfrequently pursue game that is not worth the chase. They get a stipulated price for the scalp, skin the carcass, then hand it over to the courts as a costly, yet worse than worthless trophy of their diligence in upholding the majesty of the law, the dignity of the courts and the honor of the government.

In this connection, we cheerfully bear testimony to the dignity, and impartiality with which Judge Trigg discharges his duty. But whilst the law is his guide, humanity is not forgotten and, we doubt not that he deprecates the mass of frivolous cases crowded into his court, and sympathizes with the poor devils, whose greed, co-operating with ignorance, lead them to infringe of the law, which multiplies costs to the government, with no possible chance of remunerating, either in money, or improved public morals. One remedy for this deplorable state of things, may be found in the appointment of honest officials to govern the business between the government and the people—when the former set the example of fair dealing, the latter will be inclined to follow suit. The machinery of the courts may be perfect; but so long as its agents are dishonest, demoralization, in the end of office will continue to be the order of the day.

This remark has been repeatedly made to us, in the last week of Montgomery county ought to be proud of its representative, R. P. Ferguson, and that he ought to be returned to the Legislature as long as he will accept the position. His sound judgment and straight forward integrity, make him popular with all parties, and that popularity gives him an influence that is exerted for the general good. It gave us pleasure to endorse this just estimate of our Representative, and to concur with the suggestion, that his services be brought into requisition, as long as he will consent to devote them to the welfare of Montgomery and the State of Tennessee.

And this suggests the question—why it is that the people are often restless for the election of a Governor or Judge, whilst they take little interest in the choice of a Representative? They seem to forget that the Governor is simply the executive of the laws, and the Judge, the interpreter of their meaning, whilst it is the province of the Legislature to make the laws. If they be wise, neither the Executive nor the Judiciary can well exert in their administration according to the intent of the law-making power. But if they be unwise, the greater evils resulting from their ill-considered enactments, if then good laws make good government, it is absurd to expect the result from the acts of a Legislature deficient in integrity, intelligence and patriotism. To secure good government, the first requisite is wise and honest legislators—these, with a Judiciary wisely independent of popular caprice—lifted above the influences and sympathies of political parties, are the best security for popular rights, public virtue and general prosperity.

## THE Nashville Union and American of the 28th, says:

"But in the contest between Democrats and Whigs, it should be remembered, that among the warmest adherents of the former, were the thousands of thousands of unscrupulous Democrats."

Without intending to dispute the accuracy of our contemporary's statement, it may not be impertinent to ask if many of those staunch Democrats did not know that, in adhering to Johnson, they were practically voting for Maynard? If they knew it, we are compelled to condemn their course as unpatriotic and against the best interests of the State. Johnson knew that the contest was between him and Maynard, and knowing this, his demagoguery degenerated into a contest for office, regardless of party organization, and of that constitutional government in favor of which he wrote and said so much. It is our honest conviction that the national parties are to be the Democratic and the Republican—the indications point to that conclusion, and whilst we never expect to be a democrat, in the party sense, as an old line Whig, we cannot endorse such Democracy as that of Ex-President Johnson and the "unscrupulous Democrats," who aided him in the election of a Radical majority of our Congress—a Radical majority of our Congressional delegation. If we are to co-operate with the Democratic party, in the future, we want it to clean itself.

WALL STREET has had another "blue Monday," which clearly proves that the financial crisis has not passed, and it seems strange that any intelligent man should believe that twelve years of governmental extravagance, official and grand larceny, and constantly increasing corruption in all the departments of business life, can pass away with a single convulsion, leaving the great interests outside the circle of concentrated capital, so little shaken and unsettled, as they appear to be at this moment. The reaction upon the money market and mechanics and day-laborers is yet to be felt, and felt it must be, or there is no mutual dependence between capital and labor. Every report from the commercial centers, shows that the money speculators and bankers are falling and giving way under the shock, and that the evils caused by mal-administration and the corrupt use of concentrated capital are working their legitimate results upon the producing classes and the general prosperity of the country. The worst has not yet been felt, and the work of ruin must go on until the cause is removed—that cause being corruption in every department of the government, and the tame submission of the people to the gross wrongs perpetrated by their agents.

The extensive suspension of manufacturing in New York and New England, opens another act in the financial drama, the actors in which are the bloated capitalists who intended by suspension and the discharge of laborers, to bring down the price of labor. No satisfactory reasons are given for the factories should not continue to operate, whilst there are circumstances, in abundance, going to show a preconcerted purpose, on the part of capital, to make labor subservient to its greed. The effects most likely to grow out of such a movement, will be to widen the misunderstanding between the two interests, make antagonistic by the aggressive spirit of capital upon all interests not identical with its own; and to swell the ranks of the international and, thereby, add to the insecurity of life and property in commercial centers.

Our limited intercourse with representative men, from all parts of the State, has developed little that is cheering in reference to the political future of Tennessee. It is conceded that the so-called Independents hold the balance of power, and so long as they prefer a Radical government to one that is Conservative, we have little to expect save discord, division and corrupt misrule. What such discord, and what such division, unless it be the mass of frivolous cases crowded into his court, and sympathizes with the poor devils, whose greed, co-operating with ignorance, lead them to infringe of the law, which multiplies costs to the government, with no possible chance of remunerating, either in money, or improved public morals. One remedy for this deplorable state of things, may be found in the appointment of honest officials to govern the business between the government and the people—when the former set the example of fair dealing, the latter will be inclined to follow suit. The machinery of the courts may be perfect; but so long as its agents are dishonest, demoralization, in the end of office will continue to be the order of the day.

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The Chicago Tribune estimates the little jobs to be lobbied through the next Congress, and to deplete the Treasury and burden the people, at about \$750,000,000.

REV. A. S. SMITH, who has been pastor of the E. Church, South, at Columbia, for the last four years, has been transferred to New Providence, Montgomery county, in this State. He will leave that place for his new station this week, greatly to the regret of his large congregation and many friends, whose respect and love he has gained since he commenced his ministerial operations in Columbia. Rev. John P. McFerrin, his successor, will preach his inaugural sermon, on Sunday, The Methodists of Columbia are being greatly encouraged by a building, when completed, will be an ornament to that city.—Nash. Banner.

Contributions for the Memphis sufferers continue in St. Louis. Some \$25,000 and a considerable quantity of provisions and consumer articles have been collected so far.

## FREE SCHOOLS.

EDITORIAL CHRONICLE: As there seems to be a pressure on the part of some interested in the free schools, to demand their being started at once, and as I am fully satisfied that the purpose of the funds which are or will be placed at our disposal for the purpose of carrying on the schools, I deem it my duty to accept the offered use of your columns, so kindly and generously extended me for official publications, for placing this matter, with the reasons for deferring the starting of the schools to the first Monday in January, or later if necessary, clearly before the public.

We have, for the support of the schools when inaugurated, the funds to be derived from the following sources, with the time of their probable payment into the county treasury, to-wit: The interest on the Permanent Fund, amounting to \$2,735.01, one-half of which (\$1,367.50) will be paid semi-annually in the form of a State warrant. The balance to be paid on the first Monday in April next, I presume, in the same coin. No part of the State poll tax, amounting to about \$4,000 annually, will be included in the semi-annual apportionment for October from the State. A note of inquiry addressed to the State Treasurer by the State Superintendent, to ascertain whether any fund existed arising from the sales of land held by the State on bids at tax sales, elicited the fact that by the time it filtered through the meshes of the law, nothing was left except said taxes and costs and consequently no fund derivable from that source. The semi-annual interest on the Permanent Fund, paid by the Comptroller in the form of a State warrant, is all the fund we may safely expect from the State.

In addition to this, we have a State property tax of 10 cents, which will approximate \$5,000; a county poll tax, \$4,000; a county property tax of 1 mill, \$1,250; a tax on privileges, \$800. These funds, amounting in round numbers to \$11,000, will be paid in currency, unless the revenue collectors are required to receive past due school warrants in payment for the taxes of 1873. Should this be the case, which I think should be manifestly wrong, since the two systems are distinct and no provision has been made by the Legislature or County Court for their payment, and since many instances, they were issued in excess of the fund actually due the districts from the taxes they were issued, it would be grossly wrong to require the present system to receive this paper of fictitious value in payment for taxes. The Legislature will surely make provision at its next session for the payment of this indebtedness, or require the parties who contracted it to assume it. In either case, it should be kept separate and distinct from the fund provided for sustaining the present system; for to inoculate any portion of the past system with the present would seriously cripple the efforts of its friends to establish a healthy system of free schools in the county. It is to be hoped that under the existing law for the collection of taxes there will be less delay and trouble than heretofore, and that the collectors will be able to pay into the treasury the full amount of taxes due from all county sources before the close of the schools. But if this should not be the case, would it not seriously be grossly unjust to require the teachers in the county to give up lucrative subscription schools, and accept in lieu of them positions in free schools at salaries based on paper of uncertain tenure? The patient, earnestly devoted teachers deserve, above all other classes of society, the most generous sympathy and protection. Yet they are more persistently persecuted and worse paid than all others. The good accomplished through their faithful, untiring labors is never justly appreciated or rightly rewarded. Yet they accomplish more, and are entitled to more respect, honor and reward than any other class of society. The greatest man in any sphere of action is he who has accomplished most, and not he who has exhibited the most brilliant scintillations of genius.

A system of free schools that requires its teachers in depreciated condition or at State warrants is worse than no system at all. We hope that the County Court at its quarterly term, will authorize the County Trustee to cash the State funds in the hands of the State Comptroller in payment of the interest on the State funds, and let the teachers receive their pay in currency. District Directors will then be able to make contracts with teachers on a cheaper, surer and more intelligible basis, and teachers' warrants will enter the market at par. I deem it my duty to protect the teachers in the county from any oppression arising from hasty action on the part of officials in starting the schools before funds have accumulated sufficient to pay them for their labors, thereby avoiding the breakers on which other systems have wrecked—depreciation.

Very Respectfully,  
N. L. WHITFIELD, Co. Sup't.

STANLEY GRANGE.  
CORRANDALE, Oct. 25, 73.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Tarsus Grange, No. 149, met this day, and after reading the minutes of the last meeting, proceeded to elect the following officers (Dr. J. H. Marable having been previously elected Worthy Master and W. H. Fry, Secretary):

Overseer, U. D. Tomlinson; Lecturer, S. W. Martin; Steward, W. J. Powers; Assistant Steward, T. M. Reynolds; Chaplain, P. H. Dillon; Treasurer, H. H. McCall; Gate Keeper, E. Harned; Ceres, Mrs. S. W. Martin; Pomona, Mrs. H. Myers; Flora, Mrs. R. H. McCall; Stewardess, Mrs. M. C. Powers. After the election, the officers were installed, and petitions for membership received, and committees appointed to report on same at our next general meeting, which will be on Saturday, Nov. 22.

A standing committee on crops and station this week, greatly to the regret of his large congregation and many friends, whose respect and love he has gained since he commenced his ministerial operations in Columbia. Rev. John P. McFerrin, his successor, will preach his inaugural sermon, on Sunday, The Methodists of Columbia are being greatly encouraged by a building, when completed, will be an ornament to that city.—Nash. Banner.

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## DR. MURPHY.

His Own Complete Vindication of Himself Against a Reckless Scandal.

A Pretty Sound, Sense and Sober Document from a "Perfect Wreck."

(For the Nashville Banner.) Various publications with reference to myself have been in the newspapers of the entire country for the last few weeks. And it is remarkable that, in all of them, there is scarcely a sentence that contains a falsehood and a slander. An obscure man, upon visiting East Tennessee, in some kind of way, heard of a rumor and told it in the Salem Register, in the hearing of the editor of the Salem Register. The editor dignified the rumor by publishing it in his paper, and the entire press of the country, severely with an exception, republished it, till I am the subject of the common conversation of the people everywhere—some exclaiming, some denying and some denying. In that publication there is not one line of truth, as far as the subject matter touches me. By medical history, I am a perfect wreck, and seriously threatened three laboring under great nervous prostration. My health is better, and I am, I think, as well as ever. And, whether my health is better or worse, it makes no difference—I shall give no further occasion for any such remarks. My friends, accepting the statement in the Salem Register as probably true, make me insane to save me from the charge of immorality in the premises. Among them is your correspondent, "Q." in your paper of the 19th inst. I appreciate the kind feelings in your correspondent, but I am not a "homeless and homeless wanderer." I have clothing and friends; and while it is true the only support of myself and family is derived from what I can make by lecturing occasionally, I am not in a state of penury, and not dependent upon the contributions of any one—neither have I received any such contributions. I am, I think, as well as ever. And, whether my health is better or worse, it makes no difference—I shall give no further occasion for any such remarks. 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